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CONSTRUCTION ONGOING — Baptist volunteers continue work on a new home on Highway 53 in Saucier for victims of Hurricane Katrina, which roared ashore in August 2005 and destroyed thousands of housing units on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. After three years of intense response, recovery, and rebuilding operations involving thousands of volunteers, Mississippi Baptists and Gulf Coast Association in Gulfport will formally cease organized Katrina relief programs. (Photo courtesy of David Baldwin/Gulf Coast Association)

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Mention the three years that have elapsed since Hurricane Katrina walloped the Mississippi Gulf Coast with her massive wind and waves, and most people will probably express wonderment at how time flies. Most people, but not Coast residents still hurting from the massive storm's impact on their lives.

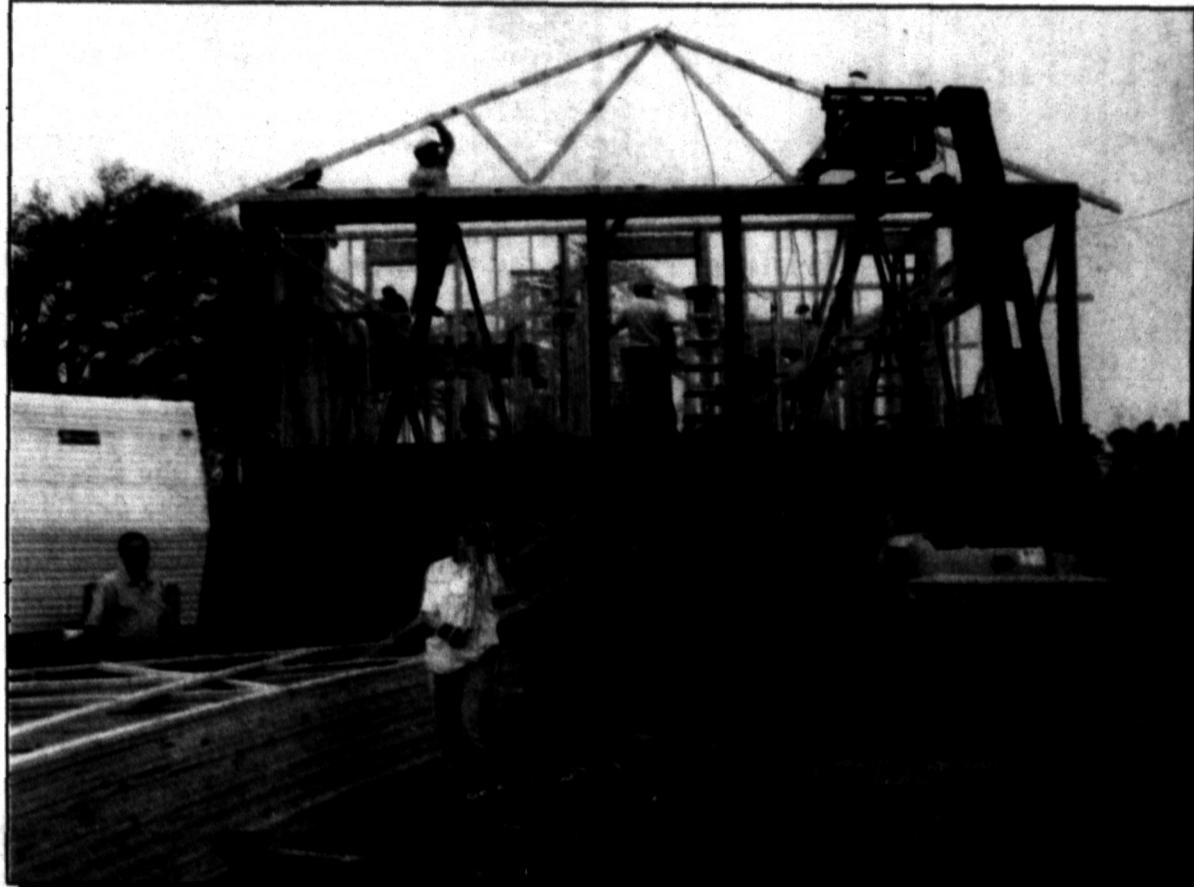
Although thousands of Baptist volunteers have come and gone from the Coast since the killer storm made landfall in late August 2005, many more people and organizations had good intentions to come and help but for one reason or another simply never made the trip.

Those good intentions are about to be history, as Mississippi Baptists prepare to wind down their record-setting relief, recovery, and rebuilding effort — but there's still work to be done and time to get involved, according to the construction coordinator for Gulf Coast Association in Gulfport.

"We have set a goal of wrapping up by the first of October," said David Baldwin. "Between now and then, we still need volunteers to finish 14 new homes that are in various stages of completion."

Volunteers are currently framing and "blacking out" the final 14 homes under construction in the Mississippi Gulf Coast area, Baldwin said, meaning that the installation of roofing, insulation panels, and siding is being completed.

"What we have left will be mostly inside work," he pointed out. "We want to shut down the formal operations on October 1, but



FRAMING UP — Baptist volunteers frame a home on Washington Street in Bay St. Louis to replace housing washed away by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and Gulf Coast Association in Gulfport will soon be wrapping up operations and closing the home rebuilding program, three years after the killer storm ravaged the Gulf Coast. (Photo courtesy of David Baldwin/Gulf Coast Association)

volunteers will still be accepted through October 17. It's crucial that we have enough volunteers to finish these houses so Hurricane

Katrina victims can move in as soon as possible. With school starting in a few weeks and the three-year time frame since the hurricane, we're concerned that people will lose interest before the homes are finished."

The houses that remain to be completed are the last of 35 homes built in 2008 with volunteer labor coordinated through Gulf Coast Association and funded by grants from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. More than 2,000 homes have been rebuilt by Southern Baptist volunteers since Katrina struck.

The two floor plans which volunteers will be working to complete are a three-bedroom, 1,156 square-feet plan, and a two-bedroom, 950 square-feet plan.

"There's a tremendous need for skilled construction people — electricians, plumbers, finish carpenters, etc. — to help us complete these homes. All types of volunteers are needed to finish these houses and won't be turned away, but we really need those skilled construction people for whatever lengths of time they can serve. We have camper hookups, and the teams don't have to be big teams. We have the money to finish the homes; we just need the labor," Baldwin said.

Baldwin stressed the opportunities that the construction volunteers have to model Jesus Christ and be a witness before lost people.

"These houses are being built for widows and families and people who lost everything to the storm. The very first house we built, the occupant accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior during the construction. He told the volunteers working on the house, 'I want to understand why you would do this for someone you don't even know. Whatever you have that makes you want to do this for people, I want it, too.' The volunteers were able to lead him to Jesus."

For more information on volunteering for the final weeks of construction, contact Baldwin at Gulf Coast Baptist Association, P.O. Box 2369, Gulfport, MS 39505. Telephone: (228) 832-4311. E-mail: dbgcba@cableone.net. Web site: www.gulfcoastba.com.



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As the militant Islamist movement attempts to advance its radical agenda through violence and bloodshed around the world, there is a stealthier political conflict arising that must also be countered if western civilization as we know it is to survive.

In France and Germany, law-makers attempt to ban the traditional wearing of head scarves by Muslim girls and women attending public educational institutions has raised the ire of growing Muslim populations in those two strictly secular countries.

Somewhat akin to the American debate on separation of church and state, critics see the head scarves as a sign of religious infiltration of secular public entities, and also as a sign of oppression since many

Muslim women are forced to wear the scarves by husbands, fathers, and family members as an acknowledgement of the unquestioned rule of males over every aspect of females' lives.

"We must defend secularism," said former French prime minister Alain Juppe in a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) report on the controversy. "The next step may be separate train compartments for men and women, beaches reserved for one sex."

"If we allow women to wear headscarves in state schools, then the republic and French democracy have made clear their religious tolerance but they have given up on any equality of the sexes in our country," said French philosopher Elisabeth Badinter in the same BBC report.

France and Germany are not alone in confronting what they perceive as pressure on public institutions to conform to Muslim points of view. Great Britain is embroiled in dozens, if not hundreds, of minor political scuffles which, when taken together, could spell trouble in that island nation.

In the Scottish city of Dundee, local police are on the hot seat for the mass

mailing of a postcard announcing the new telephone numbers for the department. The problem? Muslims are strenuously objecting to the image of Rebel, a six-week-old police dog, on the postcard.

Dogs are considered ritually unclean in much of the Muslim world, and the puppy sitting in a police hat on the postcard has generated "outrage" in the local Muslim community, according to The Daily Mail newspaper in London.

Mohammed Asif is a Muslim politician in the area. "My concern was that it's not welcomed by all communities, with the dog on the cards. It was probably a waste of resources going to these communities. They (the police) should have understood," he told The Daily Mail.

"We did not seek advice from the force's diversity adviser prior to publishing and distributing the postcards," a police department spokesman told The Daily Mail. "That was an oversight and we apologise (sic) for any offence (sic) caused."

Meanwhile, two male students at Alsager High School in Stoke-on-Trent, England, have been punished by school officials for refusing to kneel and pray to Allah during their "religious education" class.

Again according to The Daily Mail (apparently one of the only news media outlets in Great Britain still sounding the alarm against such conduct), the 12-year-old boys were ordered by their teacher to don Muslim headgear, get on their knees, and offer a scripted prayer to Allah. When they bravely refused to do so even under increasing pressure from the teacher, they were given detention.

The grandfather of one of the students told The Daily Mail, "If Muslims were asked to go to church on Sunday and take Holy Communion, there would be war." The parent of a girl in the class said, "Not only was it forced upon them, my daughter was told off for not doing it right. They'd never done it before and they were supposed to do it in another language."

School officials were unmoved and have yet to rescind the detention or apologize to parents. Even the local Cheshire County Council, reflecting the cowardice of politicians worldwide, issued a state-

ment that read, "Educating children in the beliefs of different faiths is part of the diversity curriculum on the basis that knowledge is essential to understanding."

How long will it be before such nonsense reaches U.S. shores? Don't think it can't happen here; it already is happening here.

Our Constitution is being reinterpreted daily to say whatever a handful of U.S. Supreme Court justices (political appointees, all) believe it says. The Boy Scouts are being harassed out of existence because of their traditional belief system.

The Chapel at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Co., now conducts five separate worship services: Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Buddhist, and Muslim. Grave markers for fallen American soldiers can now include a Wiccan (witch) symbol, approved and paid for by the federal government.

Some learned observers believe Europe has already been lost to a growing post-Christian, pantheistic, anything-goes religious culture where no one faith is any more important than any other.

Perhaps Christians in America still have time to make a difference before that wave sweeps over us. Perhaps, but it's a short time. Where do you stand?



"THE PASTOR'S HERE — LOOK RELIGIOUS!"



Student summer missions volunteer dies in Peru

Funeral arrangements are pending for Gregory Gomez IV, 22, a recent graduate of the University of Mississippi and a student summer missionary to Peru. Preliminary reports indicate that Gomez was killed in an automobile accident July 5 near Abancay, Peru, some 19 hours from Lima, while serving on a REAP (Rapid Entry Advance Plan) South Peru team. Gomez and his team were doing survey work among micro-people groups in preparation for other missionaries coming to serve. The team was supervised by International Mission Board missionary Mike Weaver. The group involved in the accident was traveling in a commercial van on a mountain road when the Peruvian driver lost control. Traveling with Gomez were two other students, a



Gomez

Peruvian national and a female summer missionary from Georgia. Neither were seriously hurt. Gomez was from Glen Carbon, Ill.

"The loss of Greg Gomez is a tragedy on many levels," said Weaver McCracken, director, College Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

"Greg was a strong leader with us," said Liz Thurmond, associate director, Baptist Student Union, University of Mississippi. "He had been working closely with Mo [Baker, BSU director] as a student leader in our small home group discipleship ministry. Greg had a real passion for God's word."

"He was the kind of student every parent would like to have," said Baker. "Over the course of the last year, and especially his last semester, his heart had developed this sensitivity that God wanted him to work in Peru."

He was very resolute in following his call."

Gomez was active at North Oxford Church, Oxford, and had also served as a children's intern at Bethel Church in Troy, Ill. He graduated in May with a degree in mechanical engineering. He had been hired by a firm in St. Louis, Mo., but asked to be deferred until August so that he might participate in the Peru missions opportunity.

"Greg had a Hispanic parent," said Thurmond, "so he was fluent in Spanish. We felt he was the best prepared because of that of anyone on the team."

"Greg helped lead in DiscipleNow weekends in local churches," Thurmond continued. "He was always the first to volunteer. He was well respected by his peers. He was the chaplain of his fraternity, and when they learned of his death, one of his fraternity brothers said, 'So this is what it means to follow Christ. I want to follow Christ in the same way.'"

FamilyFest spreads Gospel through missions

BALTIMORE, Md. (BP) — More than 60 volunteers, from ages five to 77, traveled from seven states for ministry in Baltimore during this summer's FamilyFEST, a hands-on missions opportunity for families sponsored by the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU).

Several people, including one family with seven children, participated in light construction and beautification projects, Vacation Bible schools, block parties, and prayerwalking throughout the metro Baltimore area June 21-24. Melanie Hart of Pittsburgh, Pa., was WMU's onsite coordinator and Maria Sigmon from Embrace Baltimore coordinated the mission sites.

Dave and Alison Bode of Nanjemoy, Md., brought their seven children to do missions work in Baltimore. They helped to clear out a basement in Seventh Church's rowhome, which Pastor Ryan Palmer soon hopes to dedicate as the Annie Armstrong House for missionaries.

Armstrong was baptized at Seventh Church around 1870, at the age of 20.

The family removed old pews and personal items and handed out postcard invitations to CitiFest, a block party sponsored by Seventh Church on June 28. They also participated in church services at Seventh Church and Salem Gospel Church, as well as at VBS sites at New Christian Bible Church and Riverside Church.

"I am a country girl at heart, but I understand that most of the people live in the cities," Alison said, "so we wanted to come meet them here."

Five-year-old Brynna understood the point of the whole trip. "We have to tell people about Jesus," she said. "That's what one does on a mission trip."

This was the first family mission trip for Kevin and Gretchen Smith of Bardstown, Ky., and their children, Spencer, 15, and Riley, 13. They also assisted in preparing Seventh Church's missions house.

"Growing up as a Baptist, I heard of Annie Armstrong my entire life," Gretchen said. "It was very meaningful to be in the church where she learned about Christ and was baptized."

For Spencer, the missions experience heightened his awareness of ministry. "At home, we have so many things to do. Everyday life is not 100 percent missions work, but here it is," he said, "but then



MISSIONS CLEAN-UP — Missouri college students Peter Casey (left) and Aaron Weaver (right) assist Wanda VanEessen of Johnsonville, S.C., in beautifying the property of Hazelwood Church in Baltimore, Md., during the June 21-24 FamilyFEST, a hands-on missions opportunity for families sponsored by Embrace Baltimore, the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, Maryland/Delaware Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) and national WMU. (BP photo by Gayla Parker)

we realize that we should be like this at home, too."

Nelda Taylor, former WMU president in Texas, was part of a team who won a FamilyFEST trip during a drawing at the 2007 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in San Antonio.

She and her team ministered at City Springs Elementary School, where they mopped and cleaned and prayed over the school's students and teachers.

Cleaning a sink full of scum and dirt, Taylor realized how every person has sin that stains their lives. "We all need the 'SOS (Savior of our Souls)' to clean our lives," she said.

At Hazelwood Church, 12 women from South Carolina and a couple from Louisiana completed 28 of 30 beautification projects on Pastor Ed Reese's list. Joining them were four young men from Missouri who were visiting Baltimore on a baseball stadium tour, heard about the missions opportunity, and decided to join in. One of the men, Nolen West, said, "Baseball

is great but a chance to do missions is the ultimate."

"They all did work with such joy and humility," Reese said, "but it wasn't the work that I appreciated so much. It was getting to know them."

Tony Rivers, pastor of Grace Church in Wilson, N.C., led his team at Catonsville Church, where 142 people came to a block party, complete with a puppet show, carnival games, food, and a moon bounce.

Forty-four adults and children raised their hands to accept Christ, said Bob Lilly, Catonsville's pastor.

Rivers said he is convinced that families going on mission trips is ideal. Noting the positive pressure on parents, he said, "As Southern Baptists, we have raised a generation of people who are mission-minded; now we need to raise a generation of missionaries."

He added, "I looked at WMU for their history of thoroughness and track record for careful planning. WMU has it all right there for you. It's so easy."

La. law panned

BATON ROUGE, La. (BP) — In a first for any state, Louisiana has adopted an academic freedom law giving teachers greater protection and freedom in teaching the strengths and weaknesses of Darwinian evolution, something supporters of academic freedom in science call a significant step forward. Gov. Bobby Jindal, a Republican, signed the Louisiana Science Education Act after it unanimously passed the state Senate 36-0 and was approved by the House by a vote of 94-3. The law allows "open and objective discussion of scientific theories being studied, including but not limited to, evolution, the origins of life, global warming and human cloning." Robert Crowther, a spokesman for the Seattle-based Discovery Institute, cited two reasons the law is needed. Under the new law, teachers still are required to teach according to state and local science standards, but now they are permitted to present additional scientific evidence relating to topics already included in the approved curriculum. Supplemental materials cannot promote any particular religion, and the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will have the power to prohibit materials they deem inappropriate, according to the law. The education act states that it should "not be construed to promote any religious doctrine, promote discrimination for or against a particular set of religious beliefs, or promote discrimination for or against religion or nonreligion." Jindal attracted criticism from some scientists, editorial writers, and even his college genetics professor. The New York Times called the education bill "Trojan horse legislation" that would lead to teaching biblical creationism. Others, such as the Americans United for Separation of Church and State and the American Civil Liberties Union, have threatened litigation, The Times-Picayune said. John West, a senior fellow at the Discovery Institute, said some critics misunderstand the legislation as a gateway to teaching Intelligent Design (ID), but the think tank has said the language of the law does not even allow for ID to be taught because it is currently not in the Louisiana state science standards.

Looking back

10 years ago

Mississippi Baptists and Mississippi WMU gather July 11 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton to say "thank you" and "farewell" to executive director-treasurer Marjean Patterson, who is retiring at the end of August after 41 years of ministry.

20 years ago

Pearl Hill Church, Carthage pastor Eddie Pilgram and Sunday School director Jimmy Ingram sing from the roof of the church after the congregation passes its announced goal of 150 people in Sunday School for five consecutive Sundays.

30 years ago

Camp Kittiwake proceeds with preliminary plans and specifications for a new chapel and auditorium building to cost about \$75,000, according to manager W.R. Roberts. The project should be concluded by 1995.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Many of us remember that day when President George W. Bush landed on an aircraft carrier off the west coast of the United States and declared, "Mission Accomplished," referring to the war in Iraq. Of course, time would tell that the mission was not complete and the weeks would turn into months and months into years and the fighting would continue. One day after the 4th of July celebrations here in America, a young man who had given his life to share the love of Jesus with people in Peru finished his task.

Greg Gomez was a student at the University of Mississippi, active in the BSU, and had felt God's leading in his life to go and spend the summer on mission with Jesus in Peru. I received the word on Sunday morning, July 6, as I was on my way to church. I went to worship with a heavy heart and emotions that were in turmoil, but I was unable to share with anyone what had taken place. The International Mission Board was directing the work and coordinating the steps that needed to be taken both to return his body to the States and to make contact with his family. I understood the delicacy of the process and knew that it was important that the information not be released until the appropriate steps had been taken. While my heart was burdened, my mind began to race in what seemed to be a dozen different directions all at the same time.

I thought about this fine young man who had given his summer and now his life to follow Jesus and to love the folks in Peru. I thought about his family, his parents, and his siblings. I thought about his home church, his pastor there, and what their Sunday morning and days ahead would be like when they received the word of his home going. I thought about our BSU director and the staff at Ole Miss as they struggled with this loss and would soon be in the center of concern for students and friends who would be struggling with the death of one of their peers.

I thought about the hundreds and hundreds of student summer missionaries who are serving around the globe and how they would hear, react, and respond to Greg's death and our loss. I wondered if someone would be there to help, encourage, pray, and sometimes just quietly support. I then began to think about future summer missionaries and how they would be affected positively or negatively as they contemplate the call of Jesus to their own hearts.

Being a student summer missionary is not just a fun and games vacation. Certainly, it is filled with triumphs, celebrations, and life altering encounters in service and missions. On the other hand, many of these wonderful young men and women are thrown into environments



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

and face issues that apart from the strength, wisdom, and guidance of God would be overwhelming. Everything that can happen to us in everyday life experiences can happen and be compounded on the mission field. There can be illnesses and misunderstandings. There can be plans that fail and people who disappoint. There can be accidents, crimes, and deaths.

All of these events and challenges swirl around us constantly wherever we may be. How do you go about dealing with all of these issues? There are two things that are paramount in my mind. One is to recognize the incredible value of life and maximize the worth of daily experiences by following the footsteps of Jesus. Greg Gomez, like hundreds of other college students and thousands of other mission groups, was doing that when his mission was completed. Is there a more meaningful way to come to the end of the journey of life

than to be where you feel the Lord wants you to be and doing what He wants you to do?

I thought of the words of the Apostle Paul as he wrote the final chapter in his final letter and said, "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (II Tim. 4:6-7). His mission was soon to be accomplished here on earth. His life would be completed though his influence would be far more extensive than he would have ever believed.

The second thing that should be kept in mind is that a life should be measured not only by time and number of years lived but by the impact that it has on others and its usefulness to the Kingdom of God. We always seem to measure life in terms of number of years while God seems to measure a life according to a gauge that measures worth from a heavenly stand-

point. While it is natural for all of us to ask why when we hear of the death of someone and especially a tragedy like the death of a college summer missionary, who is to say that God cannot take Greg Gomez's life and even his death and touch hundreds, possibly thousands, and maybe millions of souls?

I call upon the folks in our Mississippi Baptist family to join in prayer for Greg's family in their great loss and pain. While Greg called Glen Carbon, Illinois home, he came to the University of Mississippi to receive his college education and became involved in what the Lord was doing on campus at the BSU. In an undeniable sense, he, his family, and his loss are a part of our Mississippi Baptist life. We pray and we ask that God will supply the needs of each one in unusual ways and strengthen us for the tasks that remain before us. I am thankful that Greg Gomez came to Mississippi. I am even more thankful that he had an experience with the Lord among us that would give him a vision of a world that needed the touch of Jesus through his smile and witness. I am thankful that he said, "Yes," and would walk with Jesus through his final day — mission accomplished.

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Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 10, 2008

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800-748-1651, ext. 317;
601-292-3317;
or E-mail Lmiller@mbcb.org.

Mississippi wMu 130th Annual Meeting

August 22-23, Garaywa

(held in conjunction with Missions Leadership Training)

Annual Meeting: 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Lunch: 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Reservations for lunch are required.

Missions Leadership Training (MLT) for the church

(sponsored by MS wMu and Men's Ministry)

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Missions Leadership Training is for all church staff and missions leaders.

August 15-16, 2008

FBC, Biloxi

as part of ...

"Glorieta on the Gulf"

Registration Fee: \$10
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Contact the Gulf Coast Association
for a registration form: 228-832-4311

August 22-23, 2008

Garaywa Camp and Conference Center

including

wMu Annual Meeting
Registration Deadline for housing & meals: 8-8-08

August 26, 2008

Emmanuel BC

Grenada, Miss.

6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

No registration required

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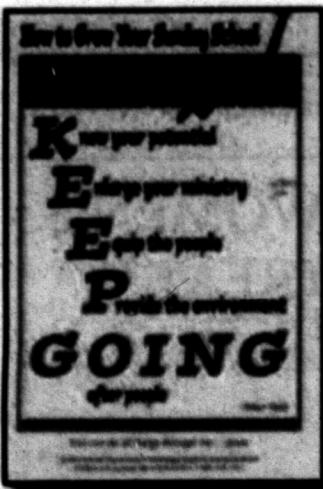


wMu Annual Meeting
Special Guest: Kay Miller
National WMU President

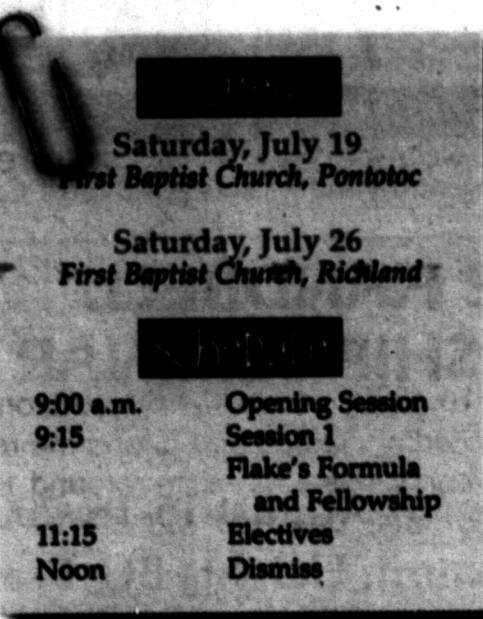
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July 28

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July 29

North Oxford BC
Oxford

SCHEDULE

8:45 a.m.
9 a.m.

Welcome
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and Boundaries
Break
Margins
Dismiss

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September 26-27

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Contact Angie Boydston for more information – Call: 601.292.3294 or
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Baptist Convention Board, PO Box 530 Jackson, MS 39205



SMALL/BIVOCATIONAL CHURCH PASTOR'S WORKSHOP

Monday, June 30 Tuesday, July 1

Auburn BC Easthaven BC
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STEVE FEE
WORSHIP LEADER

July 18, 2008

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For more info, contact the Evangelism Department, 601.292.3280
1-800-748-1651, ext. 280, or E-mail: jeffells@mbcb.org

Pray this day for...

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As "Spiritual Olympians." "... Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." Hebrews 12:1

Bobby is a US/C2 missionary in Snoqualmie, Washington. He and Kelli serve on the church planting team for Lifepointe Community Church. Praise God for the growth of this church and for the opportunity to buy a permanent location. Pray that God's will be done.

(1) Music Week, Glorieta, N.M.; (2) Summer Missions Camp for Boys, Central Hills, 14th-18th (MM); (3) GA Summer Camp, Garaway, 14th-18th (wMu); (4) Supper Summer, Mississippi College, 14th-18th (DIFM); (5) I Young Musicians' Camp, Blue Mountain College, 14th-18th (CM).

Dan and Darlene serve in youth and children's ministries in the Chinatown area of Houston. Praise God for the 27 teachers from 13 churches who completed the 11-week training to reach unchurched children with the Gospel. Pray for teens in training to conduct summer Five-Day Bible Clubs in the area.

John is state Director of Missions and Donna is Director of Missions for the Dakota Convention. Pray for them as they restart Hilltop Church on the Lower Brule Indian Reservation. Pray for the congregation to be rebuilt, and as they search for a pastor.

Due to the Beijing 2008 Summer Olympics, many foreigners living in China are finding it increasingly difficult to renew their visas. Pray that authorities responsible for making such decisions will look favorably on Christian residents from overseas who truly love the Chinese people and consider China to be their home.

Brent is a corporate chaplain in Atlanta. One company Brent serves has construction sites, and he has built relationships with several of the men working there. Pray for Brent as he seeks God's guidance for these men and their personal relationships, and as he shares Jesus with them.

(1) State Literacy Missions Conference, 17th-19th, Crossgates BC, Brandon. Pray that many will be inspired to start an outreach to those in their communities who are challenged with English or who need tutoring (wMu); (2) Pastor & Wife Retreat, Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville, 17th-19th (P/LD).

Jason is a church planter in DuBois, Penn. Pray for development of a core group for a new church, for new believers as a result of summer evangelistic events, and for continued relationship building.

Bryan is chaplain to shipboard sailors. He will be transferred this summer to be chaplain for Coast Guard Sector Houston/Galveston. Praise the Lord for the transfer positives in respect to family and ministry. Pray for him as he faces the challenges of learning a new culture and ministry environment.

July 11-24, 2008

(1) Lad/Dad Weekend Camp, Central Hills, Kosciusko, 11th-12th (MM); (2) Gregory is a church planter/pastor in the Royal Gorge Association, Colorado. Gregory and Laurie are planting a church geared towards the families of the incarcerated. Pray for this ministry and that God will show them the building He has for them.

Many volunteers are excited about their involvement in Olympic-related ministries. Pray that God will guide and empower all who seek to serve Him through unique opportunities that are present. Pray that many Chinese people will lay hold of something that is even more precious than Olympic gold: salvation through Jesus Christ.

(1) Mississippi Baptist Youth Night, Mississippi Coliseum, Jackson, 6:30 - 9 p.m. (EVAN); (2) Noelle is on the church planting team of the Missouri Convention. Pray for cell group leaders, for God's evangelism strategy to be revealed so they may spread His Gospel, and for more spiritually mature team members.

(1) Flake's Formula for the Future, FBC, Pontotoc, 9 a.m. - noon (SS); (2) Stan is a church planter in Salt Lake City, Utah. Pray for the 39 evangelism and outreach activities planned for Salt Lake City this summer and for them to penetrate the communities with the Gospel. Also, pray for the mission teams coming to help with these activities.



SEPTEMBER

9-9-95

MISS EMILY C. HEWITT
Parents: Earl and Ramona, West Africa

9-11-96

MISS HAYLEE KATHRYN HOLEMAN
Parents: Jeff & Liesa, South America

9-12-99

MISS ANNA GRACE
Parents: Philip & Dawn, Central & Eastern Europe

9-20-93

MR. TYLER BRIDGES
Parents: Randy & Kim, South America

9-21-92

MR. DERRICK DeMARS
Parents: Guy & Cindy, West Africa

9-27-01

MISS MAEGAN K. PUTNAM
Parents: Tracy and Genie, Central and Eastern Europe

FOR SECURITY

cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: Child's name, Parent's name, MBCB wMu MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

PLEASE NOTE:

Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the wMu.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Mississippi Baptist
Symphony Orchestra
in worship
FBC, Jackson
Sunday, August 10
6 p.m.



Teacher Appreciation & Prayerwalk
Sunday, July 27, 2008

- Conduct a commitment service during the morning worship for school teachers and administrators.
- Pray and commission teachers and administrators as they begin the new school year.
- Request specific prayer needs from school administrators and teachers.
- Meet at the church on Sunday afternoon to prayer-walk and/or prayer drive around the area schools.
- Share the prayerwalk experiences during the evening worship.

If you would like to receive information sheets on Prayerwalking Local Schools for Principals, for Pastors and for Participants, call 601.292.3324 or E-mail KBurns@mcbcb.org. Order Prayerwalking Key Chains from www.prayerclosetministries.org or call Kevin Meador, 601.635.2180.

HOUSE TOPS

STAFF CHANGES

1. Lowery Creek Church, Ellisville, has called Larry Wickers as pastor. He comes from Rocky Mt. Church, Bruce. Shown is Wickers and Leslie Wickers.
2. Navilla Church, McComb, has called Larry Romack as pastor. Shown, front row, are Michael and Christopher Romack; back row, Joshua Romack, Romack, and Rebekah, Matthew, and Allison Romack.
3. Tuscola Church, Leake Association, has called Dustin Gentry as part-time minister of children/youth. Shown are Gentry and pastor Smith Sanders.
4. Clarke - Venable Church, Decatur, has called Steven McMorris as minister of music. He holds a Master of Music degree from Mississippi College and is pursuing a Master of Arts in Worship Studies at New Orleans Seminary. Shown, from left, are Joe Clark, McMorris, wife Jennifer, son Bradley, and pastor Mark Vincent.



1. The Wickers



3. Tuscola Church



2. The Romacks



4. McMorris, Clarke - Venable Church

MS POSITIONS

RURAL CHURCH, SMITH COUNTY
association, accepting resumes for bi-vocational pastor. Please send resumes to Sardis Baptist Church, attn: L.B. Smith, 1550 SCR 578, Morton, MS 39117.

HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH, HWY. 18 West, Quitman, Miss. is now accepting resumes for a full-time Pastor. Please send resumes to Harmony Baptist Church, 5307 Hwy. 18 West, Quitman, MS 39355.

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE, CLINTON, Miss. is seeking an Assistant University Webmaster. Under the supervision of the Office of Public Relations. The person in this position designs, creates and supports the University's web site. For more information, visit www.mc.edu/administration/personnel/jobs.

FBC OF EUPORA, MISS. IS NOW accepting resumes for the position of youth minister. Send resumes to fbceouth@gmail.com or FBC-Search, P.O. Box 268, Eupora, MS 39744.

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Parkview Baptist Church, Greenville, Miss., is seeking a full-time minister of music. Please send resume to personnel committee, 712 McAllister St., Greenville, MS 38701, or email to parkviewp@bellsouth.net.

SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH, MARSHALL County, Miss. Seeking part-time youth director with potential for growth. Please send resume to search committee, P.O. Box 734, Potts Camp, MS 38659.

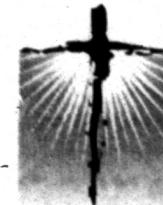
REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Paynes Church, Charleston:** Homecoming, July 13; special singing, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by potluck lunch; pastor Gene Foshee, speaker.
2. **Tocowa Church, Courtland:** Revival, July 25 - 27, 7 p.m.; Gerald Finley, speaker; Wade Murphy and Connie Haley, music; Terrell McGreger, pastor.
3. **Robinson Church, Amite County:** Revival, July 18 - 20; Fri., 7 p.m., followed by homemade ice cream; Sun., 11 a.m. followed by potluck lunch; Ronnie Robinson, speaker; Ed May, music; Chubby Lowery, pastor.
4. **Beulah Church, Newton Co.:** Homecoming, July 13, 10:45 a.m. service, followed by fellowship meal and service, 1:30 p.m.; Kenneth Harrison and Byron Howell, speakers; Alvyn Moore and The Howells, music.
5. **Oak Grove Church, Meridian:** Revival, July 13 - 16; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by potluck lunch and 1:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Jack Davis, speaker; Edward Jordan, music.
6. **Causeyville Church, Meridian:** Revival, July 20 - 23; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Drew Dabbs, speaker;
7. **First Church, Satartia:** Homecoming and revival, July 20 - 23; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Mickey Bounds, speaker; Bill and Martha Martin, music; Bobby Anderson, pastor.
8. **Concord Church, Pelahatchie:** Revival, July 13 - 16; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by pot luck lunch, and 7 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Jim Hill, speaker; Hill Family, music.

www.mbc.org

COLLEGE NEWS

1. Former federal judge Charles W. Pickering will deliver the Aug. 2 commencement address at Mississippi College, 10 a.m., A.E. Wood Coliseum.



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QKN HBVA GBUJB
XVLEUHVQPDDM PLV
MKP.

DPFV LUS: HGVGHM-
VUWBH

Clue: Q=F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Matthew Twenty-five:thirty-four

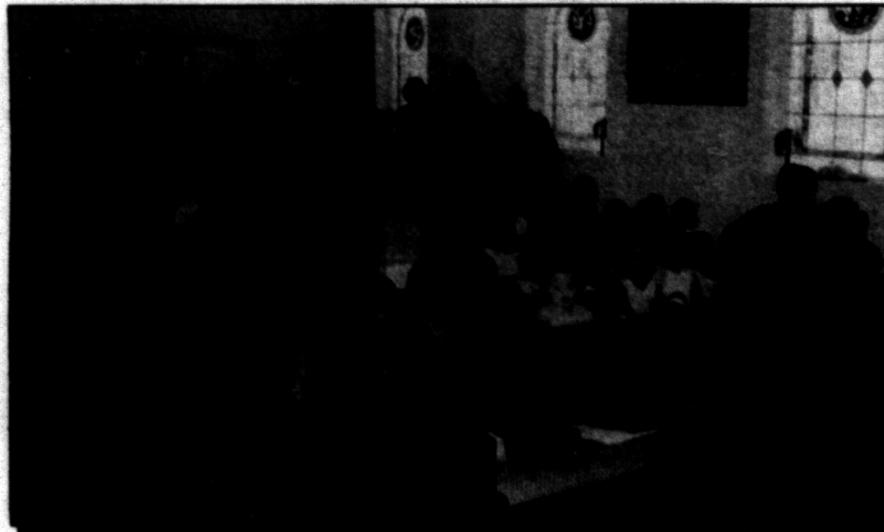
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS



1. Cowart Church, Charleston



2. Hopewell Church, Water Valley



3. Rocky Point Church, Carthage



4. Smithville Church, Smithville

1. **Cowart Church, Charleston:** June 9 - 13; shown are the participants.

2. **Hopewell Church, Water Valley:** June 10 - 13; shown are the participants.

3. **Rocky Point Church, Carthage:** Average of 80 children with three decisions. Shown are the participants.

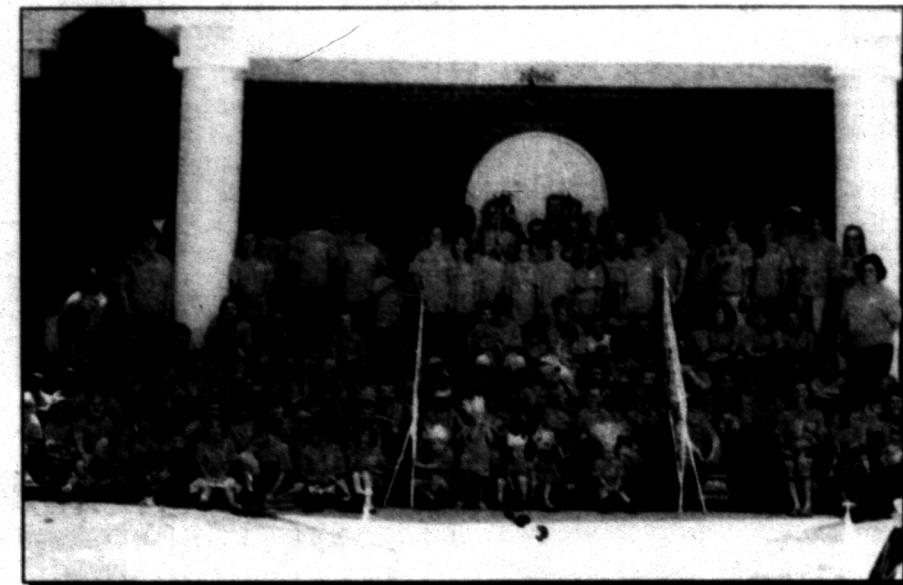
4. **Smithville Church, Smithville:** June 2 - 6, with 70 average in attendance, with an offering of \$514.33 given to the Baptist Children's Village. Shown are the participants.

5. **First Church Eupora:** Six professions of faith. Shown are the participants.

6. **Harmony Church, Walnut:** June 23 - 27. Shown are the participants.



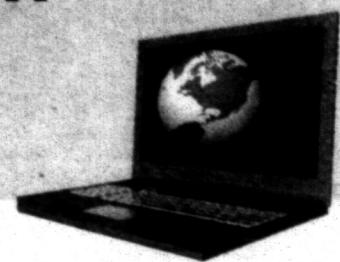
5. First Church, Eupora



6. Harmony Church, Walnut



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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

What about the Antichrist?

Revelation 13:1-10, 16-18

By Janice H. Fortenberry

With our world in such turmoil and unrest, it is common for us to question where history is headed. In religious terms, we may wonder if we are in the "end times." As a result, a study in the Book of Revelation is particularly timely.

Authored by John during his exile on the island of Patmos from about A.D. 86 to 96, Revelation presents more difficult interpretive challenges than any of the New Testament books. In fact, the prophetic events in Revelation are subject to vigorous debate and interpretation but the prevailing theme remains the same: God has always been and will continue to be in sovereign control and history will end with Christ as the victor.

This week's lesson deals with the Antichrist, the final evil one who will precede the return of Christ. While John did not use the word "antichrist" in the Book of Revelation, many connect the "beast out of the sea" in chapter 13 with an end-time person empowered by Satan. The goal of this lesson is to help us understand what the Antichrist will do and to strengthen our resolve to oppose evil in any form.

First, we are to recognize that the Antichrist will receive his authority and power from Satan (13:1-6). "I looked and saw a beast coming up from the sea." (13:1 CEV)

In the Bible, the sea is descriptive of the nations of the world and of mankind. The power drawing the beast from the sea is identified in the previous verse



Fortenberry

(12:18) as the dragon, or Satan. In other words, the beast (or Antichrist) is Satan's masterpiece, the culmination of all things evil and deceiving. Notice in verse 3 that the dragon hands over his own power and authority to the Antichrist.

As a result, the Antichrist will win the adoration of the world; he will blaspheme God by cursing His name; and he will be allowed to massacre those who are God's children. The reign of the Antichrist, according to verse 5, will be 42 months.

While we could spend countless days debating the specific identity of the Antichrist and the nations from which he will emerge, the more important point may be this: We should be diligent and reject any teaching or political persuasion that lessens the sovereignty, holiness and majesty of Christ. We should test everything we hear.

A second truth about the Antichrist is that he will be the ultimate control freak (13:7b-8,

16-18). We see in this passage that he will have authority over the people of every tribe, nation, language and race. There will be no commerce without his authority; all military power will be under his control; and people will worship him as if he were a god. To insure his complete dominion over the world, a second beast (v. 11) will be charged with placing the identifying mark of the Antichrist on everyone and, without it, people will be cut off from the necessities of life.

"For the number is that of a man, and his number is six hundred and sixty-six." (13:18 NAS) How's that for total control?

The number six falls one short of God's perfect number, seven. The number "666" represents human imperfection in triplicate—the epitome of human nature at its worst empowered by Satanic evil at its most rampant.

Third, the Antichrist will persecute and kill believers (13:7a, 9-10). False religion has killed millions of believers over the centuries but this final false sys-

tem will be far more deadly than any that preceded it.

However, we are to be reminded that he will never be able to take away salvation. For those who are redeemed, eternal fate is sealed.

John reminds us we are to face the future with endurance and longsuffering: "If you are doomed to be captured, you will be captured. If you are doomed to be killed by a sword, you will be killed by a sword. This means God's people must learn to endure and be faithful." (13:10 CEV)

Do I personally have a theory of who the Antichrist is or will be? Absolutely not! And, to be perfectly honest, I'm not sure I trust anyone who claims to have it all figured out. Do I watch world events from the context of scripture and remain engaged and curious? Of course I do. But I'd rather remain focused on this: No matter how powerful the Antichrist proves to be, the power of almighty God will always be greater.

Fortenberry is a member of First Church, McComb.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Barnabas: Encouragement

Lesson Passage: Acts 11:19-30

By W. Wayne VanHorn

This week's lesson on Barnabas concludes our five week series focusing on the characteristics of strong Christians. We have examined the boldness of Stephen, the consistency of Philip, the total commitment of Paul, and the openness of Peter. To this list of stellar characteristics we add Barnabas' penchant for encouragement.

As the early church grew it faced one obstacle after another. Road blocks often dishearten people. Barnabas allowed God to use him in special ways to encourage the apostles and other Christians as well. Barnabas was a nickname meaning Son of Encouragement. His real name was Joseph (Acts 4:36).

Consider the many ways Barnabas encouraged others to receive Christ. He sold personal land to give money to struggling



VanHorn

believers, Acts 4:37. He befriended the recently converted Saul and helped the wary apostles trust him and receive him into the fellowship, Acts 9:27. He was entrusted to help the fledgling church in Antioch where he immediately began to encourage them to be faithful to the Lord, Acts 11:22-23. He is described as a good man and full of the Holy Spirit and faith, Acts 11:24. He searched out Saul of Tarsus to help with the Lord's work, Acts 11:25-26. He was entrusted with the offering for the famine stricken saints in Judea, Acts 11:28-30.

Yet, Barnabas did much more. He recruited John Mark into the work of ministry, Acts 12:25. He was a faithful teacher at Antioch for an extended period of time, Acts 13:1. He and Saul constituted the first missionary team sent out by the Antiochian church, Acts 13:2. He and Paul presented

the Gospel to people who wanted to hear and to those who rejected it, Acts 13:42-46. He and Paul suffered persecution for the sake of the Gospel, Acts 13:50. He and Paul demonstrated genuine humility when misguided people referred to them as Gods, Acts 14:11-15.

He accompanied Paul to Jerusalem to defend the ministry to the Gentiles to the apostles, Acts 15:1-22. He gave John Mark a second chance even when Paul was not willing to do so. Acts 15:36-39. After reading this extensive list, we can understand readily why Barnabas was dearly loved by the apostles, Acts 15:25.

1. Approach New Christians (Acts 11:19-22)

An early obstacle the church faced was persecution from the Jews. As a result, the early believers were scattered in every direction, taking their message of life in Christ with them. In the context of persecution, some believers began to share the Gospel with Gentiles. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard of Gentiles

getting saved in Antioch, they entrusted Barnabas to go and to encourage the new believers.

2. Affirm Christians (Acts 11:23-24)

When Barnabas arrived in Antioch, he immediately witnessed the grace of God at work. Modern believers can take heart from the truth that not even the church's worst enemies can prevent God from working in His world to bring people unto Himself. Barnabas responded by rejoicing, expressing the glad feelings he experienced as he saw God at work. He also encouraged the new converts. The verb encourage comes from two Greek words meaning "to be called alongside." Barnabas stood by the side of these young believers to strengthen them in the faith and to persuade them to remain true to the Lord.

3. Help Christians Serve (Acts 11:25-26)

Barnabas enjoyed a growing ministry in Antioch, but true to his nature, he did not try to gain personal honor or harbor all the glory. Instead, he went to Tarsus, recruited Paul, and brought him to Antioch and put him to work.

Barnabas helped Paul to get started in ministry. As a result of his unselfish behavior, he and Paul "taught considerable numbers." The ministry was so fruitful that believers were first called Christians at Antioch.

4. Show Concern for Christians (Acts 11:27-30)

Barnabas had taken the lead a few years earlier by selling personal land and giving the money to the apostles in Jerusalem to help poor saints (Acts 4:37). Now, as a prophet named Agabus predicted a coming famine, the Christians in Antioch took up a freewill offering and entrusted the money to Barnabas and Saul to deliver it to Jerusalem. Thus, not only was Barnabas made of the "right stuff," he was able to reproduce his attitude and view of life in the hearts and minds of new Christians whom he taught. My prayer is that twenty-first century believers can become great encouragers also.

VanHorn is dean of the School of Christian Studies & the Arts at Mississippi College and a member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

THE BAPTIST Record

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) type-written, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will

be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

1. **New Hope Church, Foxworth**, will host Brittany Ward in concert July 13, 10:30 a.m. and the Master's Hands Puppet Ministry July 19, 7 p.m.
2. **Society Hill Church, Oakvale**, will host the Ryders in concert July 13, 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken.
3. **Faith Church, Ovett**, will host the Magnolia Boys in concert July 12, 6 p.m.
4. **Kokomo Church, Marion County**, recently collected items to be distributed in Honduras with the Baptist Medical and Dental Missions International team. The team will serve
5. **Cedar View Church, Olive Branch** is hosting The Martin Family July 19, 6 p.m.
6. **Morrison Heights Church, Clinton**, will host a three day conference focused on prayer and spiritual awakening, led by J. Chris Scofield. Services are July 27, 9 and 10:30 a.m., and 6 p.m.; and July 28 - 29, 7 p.m. For information, call (601) 924-6400.
7. **Bunker Hill Church, Columbia**, will host Ronnie Cottingham in concert July 13, 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken.



9. Mt. Horeb GAs



10. Youth, First Church, Charleston



11. Children's musical, First Church, Charleston

8. **Magee's Creek Church, Walthall Association**, held a unique graduation service May 25 with three family members graduating; Danielle Bennett, West Marion High School; Emily Bennett, William Carey University; and Teresa Kay Bennett, New Orleans Seminary.
9. **Mt. Horeb Church, Collins**, held a GA recognition service June 15 to recognize the girls who completed mission projects during the year. Shown are the participants.

10. **First Church, Charleston**, recognizes the youth who participated in Centrifuge at Mississippi College June 2 - 7.

11. **First Church, Charleston**, recently presented its annual children's spring musical, *Living Inside Out in an Upside Down World*. Shown are the participants.
12. Forty children from **Northcrest Church, Meridian**, attended missions camp at Central Hills June 19 - 21. Shown are the participants.

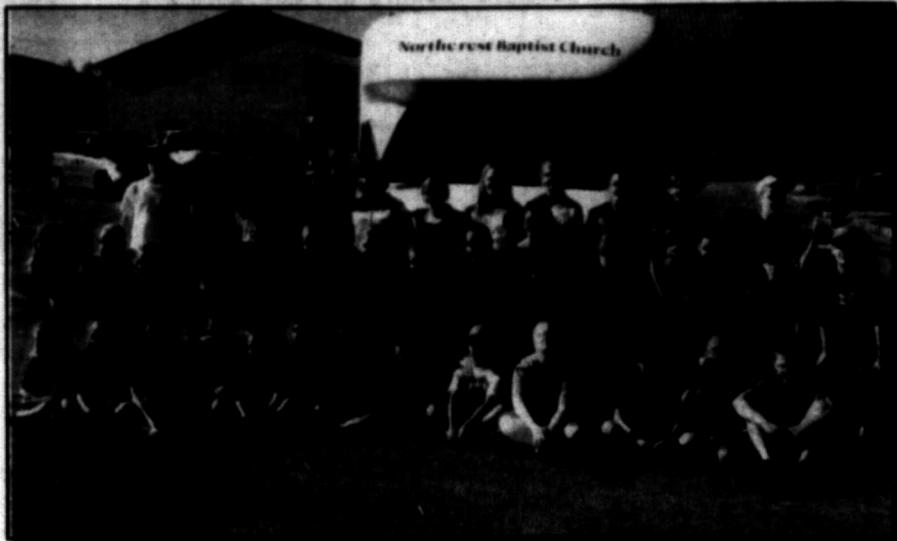
13. The staff and deacons of **Green's Creek Church, Petal**, honored the mothers of the church the Saturday before Mother's Day by cooking and serving them a steak dinner. Shown are the cooks.

14. **New Hope Church, Harmontown**, hosted the ordination service for their new pastor, Donny Hill, Feb. 3. Shown are Joe Clayton, Hill, and Susie Hill.

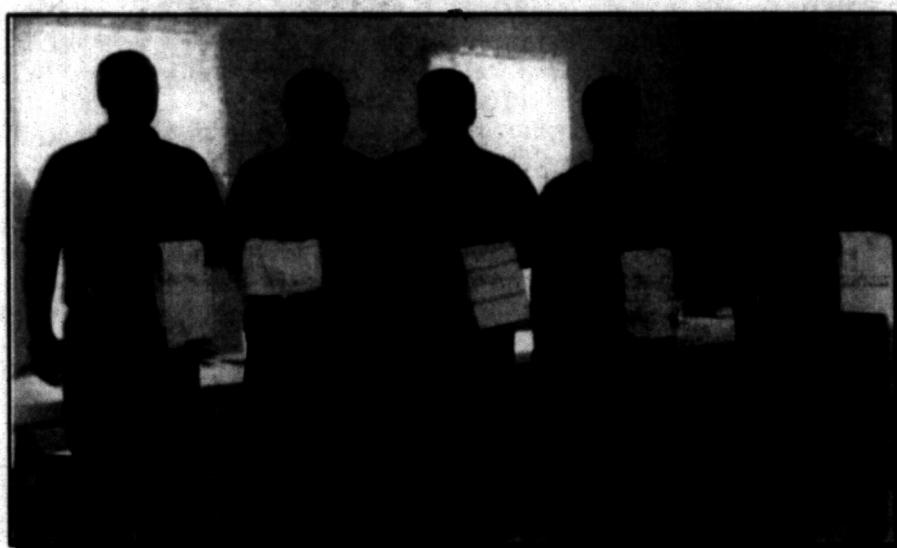
15. **First Church, Picayune**, sent a mission team to Jenness Park Christian Camp, Cold Springs, Ca., for the 22nd year on construction projects. Shown are Mike Tyson, Billy Sheffield, Jim Williams, Jimmy Hewlett, Chuck Kennedy, David Malone, Buddy Bennett, Scott Sheasby, Cameron Nunez, and Dave Windham.



The Baptist Record
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205



12. Northcrest Church, Meridian



13. Green's Creek Church



14. Hill ordination



15. First Church, Picayune, mission team